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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT V Coastal Defense Zone, Pulj

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CIRCULATE

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1. The organization of the defense of Yugoslav islands and coastal areas is the responsibility of the Yugoslav Naval Command. The Yugoslav coast and islands are divided into five naval zones, with naval zone defense command headquarters at Pulj, Sibenik, Split, Kardeljevo and Kotorske Boke. Each of these zones in turn is broken down into several numbered defense sector commands (Komanda Utvrđenog Otseka). Of these sectors, the 12 Defense Sector Command on the Island of Vis is independent and ranks virtually as a sixth zonal command. Zonal commands have at their disposal naval, marine infantry and coastal artillery (army) personnel.
2. The headquarters of the V Naval Coastal Defense Zone is situated in a three-story building, formerly an Italian barracks, which is located near the arsenal and military hospital. The Commander of the V Coastal Defense Zone in Pulj is Colonel Milan Abramovic, while the Political Commissar is Lieutenant Colonel Bogdan Ogledovic.
3. The V Coastal Defense Command Zone at Pulj has jurisdiction over the entire area from Zone B, [redacted] as far as Novi Grad and including Molat Island. The following military units are attached to the V Coastal Defense Command Zone:
 - a. The headquarters command of an unidentified marine infantry regiment,² in the former Italian "Nazario Sauro" Barracks, Pulj, under the command of an unidentified lieutenant colonel;
 - b. An unspecified marine infantry battalion, housed in the former Italian "Nazario Sauro" Barracks, Pulj;
 - c. An unidentified marine infantry chemical-warfare company, billeted in the same barracks, Pulj;

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- d. A marine infantry school for signal and quartermaster personnel, also billeted in the same barracks, Pulj;³
- e. The headquarters command of the 3 Coastal Defense Sector, housed in a large two-story brick building constructed near the Veliki Zalic Bay on Losinj Island during 1950-1951. The staff of this headquarters command has been identified as follows:
 - (1) Commander: Major Milan Varicak;
 - (2) Political Commissar: Major Petar Dimitrovic;
 - (3) UDB Officer: Lieutenant Babin;
 - (4) Political Instructor: Bogdan Radonja; and
 - (5) Youth Leader: Second Lieutenant Franc Skube.
- 4. The 3 Coastal Defense Sector Command on Losinj Island is broken down into the following units:
 - a. The 531 Marine Infantry Battalion; and
 - b. Unspecified army coastal batteries located on the Islands of Losinj, Premuda, Susac and Sveti Petar.

The officers in charge of these units are billeted in the two-story brick building near Veliki Zalic Bay, while the men are quartered in adjoining barracks. Some of the officers of the 531 Marine Infantry Battalion have been identified as follows:

 - c. Commander: Captain Ciro Seva;
 - d. Political Commissar: Captain Ljubo Simunic; and
 - e. Deputy Political Commissar: Captain Radomir Cepic.
- 5. The 531 Marine Infantry Battalion, which moved its headquarters from Pulj to Losinj Island toward the end of 1949 or the beginning of 1950, comprises the following units:
 - a. Three unspecified rifle companies, each 80 men strong. Each of the companies is broken down into three squads, each equipped with a Russian DP machine gun;
 - b. One unidentified machine gun company, composed of 60 men. This company is broken down into two platoons, each of which in turn are broken down into three squads. Each squad is equipped with a Breda medium-weight machine gun;
 - c. One unidentified automatic weapons platoon composed of 30 men and equipped with Russian machine pistols;
 - d. An unspecified mortar company equipped with 6 x 81-millimeter mortars;
 - e. An unspecified antitank platoon, which has at its disposal six British antitank guns and three bazookas;
 - f. An unspecified communications squad equipped with two Russian radio sets; and
 - g. A supply platoon.

The function of the 531 Marine Infantry Battalion is twofold; first, to defend Losinj Island; and second, to construct gun emplacements and other defensive works in the area. The men of this Battalion do not man gun positions on the Island, inasmuch as that is the specific function of army coastal artillery units stationed in the area.

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1. Comment:
confirm that the V Coastal Defense Zone is located in Pulj. 50X1-HUM
2. Comment:
during 1951, the 1 Marine Infantry Regiment had its headquarters in Pulj. 50X1-HUM
3. Comment:
a naval specialist school is located in the former Italian "Nazario Sauro" Barracks area, Pulj. 50X1-HUM

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